

## Conservation Security Program Kicks Off in Utah

Agriculture and soil conservation leaders gathered at a dairy and turkey farm in Sanpete County in mid August to sign the first USDA Conservation Security Program (CSP) contract in Utah.

CSP is a new program that was piloted in a few states 2004. This is the first time the program that rewards agricultural producers for outstanding soil conservation and environmental quality programs that help their operations stand out. The motto of CSP is to 'Reward the best and motivate the rest,' said Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Utah, at the recent inaugural contract signing at the Scott and Edwin Sunderland farm in Chester, Utah.

Gillen said 91 producers in the three Utah watersheds have been selected to take part in the program this year. Selected producers in the Little Bear River, Montezuma Creek and San Pitch watersheds will receive between \$1,000 and \$38,000 to continue their natural resources improvement efforts.

CSP applicants participate in the new program on three different tiers reflecting both their documented historical conservation management as well as their agreement to do additional practices to further enhance the environment. Within the three Utah watersheds, 50 applicants were at Tier I, 13 at Tier II and 44 at Tier III. Tier three recognizes the highest level of conservation. Of the

107 applicants in Utah, 91 were approved for funding. Of those approved, 43 were in Tier I, six were in Tier two and 42 were in Tier III. Nearly 13,000 eligible applications will be funded nationwide.

"The Sunderland's operation was rated at Tier III," said Brian Miller, NRCS District Conservationist, Sanpete County, who served as CSP Team Leader for the Sanpitch Watershed effort. "Their farm has a broad range of sustainable conservation practices, including composting manure from their 750-cow dairy and reusing it as dairy bedding, constructing an energy-producing manure digester, and irrigation and pest management," Miller continued. "But most all," he concluded, "was their outstanding computer record keeping system that allowed them to monitor fertilizer inputs, soil testing, and calibration. Kyle Stephens, Deputy Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, also spoke at

the ceremony. He commended the Sunderland's for their dedication to conservation and the leadership in the Sanpitch Watershed. "This program was created to reward and recognize the long term action and commitment of conservationists and stewards like the Sunderlands," Stephens said.

Following the signing, the Sunderlands took their agency and media guests on a short tour of some of their facilities, including their state-of-the-art milking carousel parlor, and the methane gas-producing digester, which is still being constructed. When completed and fully operational, the digester will produce enough electricity to run the farm and an estimated 100 additional private residences. The excess power



## EPA/ State Water Quality Representatives Visit Central Utah Watersheds on Annual Tour

A small group of EPA and state representatives toured several Northern and Central Utah Watershed areas in mid June as part of the annual review of Clean Water Act Section 319 projects funded by EPA.

The first day the group looked at parts of the Spanish Fork River and Thistle Creek watersheds.

In the Spanish Fork River watershed the group looked at project that used structural supports to the streambank including root wads and rocks that were placed in the banks 18 months earlier. These structures have held well through the significant spring flooding.

This area of the stream has good populations of brown trout. Willows were plentiful in the past, but are not present now. The coconut fiber supports are holding the soil adequately



*Streambank improvement projects along this stretch of the Spanish Fork River held very well this past spring, despite a heavy runoff season.*

See "EPA Tour" on page 4



**2005 Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference**  
Salt Lake Sheraton City Center Hotel, 150 West 500 South, SLC, UT

# Agenda

## ***“Managing Water Quality in a Growing West”***

**Monday, Sept. 26, 2005**

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Training on Stormwater Erosion Control Pollution Prevention (3 Seasons North Ballroom) **By invitation only** – limited room available.  
For more information on Erosion Control  
Supervisor Training Programs contact Paul Taylor (801) 547-0393 or Kimball Wallace  
(801) 444-2255.

8:00 a.m.	Utah Association of Conservation Districts Meeting ( <i>Room, Market Street</i> )
1:00 – 200 p.m.	Soil Conservation Commission/Water Quality Board Meeting ( <i>Room, Market Street</i> )
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Soil Conservation Commission ( <i>Room, Market Street</i> ) / Water Quality Board Meeting ( <i>Room, Granary</i> )

**6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration:** (3 Seasons Lobby)

**Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005**

6:00 – 7:30 a.m. Registration — (3 Seasons Lobby)  
6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast — (3 Seasons Lobby)

**General Session I – “The Changing Face of Utah Watersheds”** (3 Seasons North Ballroom)

8:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<i>Jack Wilbur, NPS Conference Committee</i>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Keynote Address: Changing Landscapes</b>	<i>Alan Matheson, Exec. Dir. Envision Utah</i>
8:45 a.m.	8:45 a.m. <b>Federal Perspective</b>	<i>Gregg Davis, Stormwater Coordinator, EPA Region VIII</i>

9:15 a.m. **Local Perspectives: Stormwater Advisory Committee Panel**  
(Panelists to be announced)

10:00 a.m. Break provided — (3 Seasons Lobby)

10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Presentations Session I** (30 min. each)

<b><u>Track A:</u></b>	<u>Granary Room</u>	<b><i>Moderator: Tom Rushing, DEQ</i></b>
• A Comprehensive Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan		<i>Paul Taylor, JUB Engineering</i>
• A Phase II Municipal Ordinance for Construction Site Runoff		<i>Ibrahim Osman, Yuma, AZ.</i>
• Phase II Issues for Small MS-4s in the Desert		<i>Lisa Duncan, Marana, AZ.</i>

<b><u>Track B:</u></b>	<b><u>Market Street Room</u></b>	<b><u>Moderator:</u></b>	<b><u>Jack Wilbur, UDAF</u></b>
• LIFE™ Model—software tool (Growth v. Envir. Stewardship)			Jeff DenBleyker, CH2M Hill
• Online Tool for Assessing and Interpreting W. Q. Data			Nancy Mesner, USU
• Using Mass-Loading Studies and Solute-Transport Modeling-to Assist in Understanding NPS Contribution to Streams			Briant Kimball, USGS

<b>Track C:</b>	<i>Harvest Room</i>	<b><u>Moderator: Kate Johnson, DDW</u></b>
• A Review of Stormwater Quality Data for Salt Lake County		<i>Karen Nichols, Stantec Consulting</i>
• New Utah Low Impact Development, Stormwater Mgt. Plan		<i>Rand Fisher, Div. Water Quality</i>
• Keep It Pure Campaign		<i>Tracie Kirkham, SLC Public Utilities</i>

12:00 p.m. **Buffet Lunch** – (3 Seasons South Ballroom)  
Lunch Presentation: Rita Stevenson — Interactive Stormwater School Education Program

## General Session II – “State Perspectives: Water Quality Challenges Today and Tomorrow”

	(3 Seasons North Ballroom)	
1:30 p.m.	Overview of Timely Water Issues	Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality
	Stormwater	Tom Rushing, Division of Water Quality
	Public Information	Jack Wilbur, Utah Dept. of Ag. & Food

3:00 p.m. Break Provided – (3 Seasons Lobby)

3:30 p.m. **Concurrent Presentations Session II** (30 min. each)

<b>Track A:</b>	<i>Granary Room</i>	<b>Moderator:</b> Roy Gunnell, UDAF
• Internet-Based Watershed Information System for the Bear River		<i>Jeff Horsburgh, USU, Water Res. Lab</i>
• Animal Feeding Operation Implementation Success Stories		<i>Mark Petersen, Utah Farm Bureau</i>
• Sanpitch Watershed Stewardship Group		<i>Polly Johnson, UACD Watershed Coordinator</i>

<p><b>Track B:</b> <i>Market Street Room</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jordan River Riparian Wetlands Restoration Project at Willow Creek in South Salt Lake County: A Progress Report</li> <li>• 7800 South Wetlands Restoration and Remediation</li> <li>• Making the Link Between Impervious Surface Area and Water Quality Impacts in Urban Watersheds</li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> W. D. Robinson, UDAF  <i>Ty Harrison, Westminster College</i></p> <p><i>Jeff DenBleyker, CH2M Hill</i>  <i>Nancy Mesner, USU</i></p>
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<p><b><u>Track C:</u></b> <i>Harvest Room</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed Education Curricula for 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</li> <li>• Getting the Water Quality Message to Kids</li> <li>• Building Partnerships to Preserve Hidden Hollow</li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Jack Wilbur, UDAF</p> <p><i>Nicol Gagstetter, USU</i></p> <p><i>Andree` Walker, USU</i></p> <p><i>Lynne Olson, Community Council</i></p>
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5:00 p.m.	Adjourn:	Travel to Tanner Park
6:00 p.m.	<b>Barbecue</b>	Tanner Park (Parley's Historic Nature Park) Map Available Catered by Society for Range Management (SRM)

### *Utah Watershed Review:*

is the official publication of the Utah Nonpoint Source Task and is produced by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

<http://ag.utah.gov/mktcons/uwr.html>

(801) 538-7098-- Jack Wilbur, editor

E-mail: [jackwilbur@utah.gov](mailto:jackwilbur@utah.gov)

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2005

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast — (3 Seasons South Ballroom)

General Session III – Tour: Salt Lake Valley

7:45 - 8:00 a.m. Load busses at Sheraton Hotel  
Box lunch and breaks provided  
5:00 p.m. Return to Sheraton Hotel (Dinner on your own)

Thursday, Sept. 29, 2005

6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast — (3 Seasons Lobby)

8:00 a.m. Concurrent Presentations Session III (30 min. each)

- Track A:** 3 Seasons North B.R.

**Moderator:** Nancy Mesner, USU  
Jack Wilbur, Ut. Dept. Ag. & Food

  - National Stormwater/Urban NPS Outreach CD and Website: Great Ideas for the Taking
  - Monitoring Fecal Contamination in Emigration Creek
  - East Canyon Watershed Restoration
- Track B:** 3 Seasons South B.R.

**Moderator:** Garrick Wilden, Civil & Envir. Engineer  
Lee Duncan, Watershed Coordinator

- Track B:** 3 Seasons South B.R.

**Moderator:** Bill Bradwisch, DWR  
Mike Allred, Div. Water Quality  
Carl Adams, Div. Water Quality

  - Bear River-Cutler Reservoir TMDL
  - Strawberry Reservoir: Current Status After 20 Years of Restoration
  - NPS State Revolving Fund Loans
- Track C:** Wasatch Room

**Moderator:** Shelly Quick, Div. Water Quality

- Track C:**

**Moderator:** Mike Reichert, DEQ  
Bronson Smart, Blake Walbeck,  
Lynn Kitchen, NRCS-Utah

  - Utah Flooding 2005 (90 minutes)

9:30 a.m. Closing Remarks & Adjournment – Roy Gunnell, UDAF (3 Seasons North Ballroom)

Tour Sites Overview:

The 2005 Utah NPS Conference tour promises to be a unique, interesting experience, focusing on issues related to increasing population and the impacts of urbanization. Tour stops will include a small section of Parleys Creek in Sugarhouse (Hidden Hollow) in the middle of a shopping development that was saved by a group of school children from being paved over as a parking lot. Also part of the tour is a huge new residential community being developed on Kennecott land, called Daybreak, in South Jordan; a Jordan River streambank restoration project in Riverton; the water conservation demonstration gardens at the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District offices, and a constructed wetlands project on the Sharon Steel Superfund site in West Jordan.

7:45 a.m.	Load busses - leave hotel at 8:00 a.m.
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Hidden Hollow
10:00 – Noon	Daybreak (break up into small groups and rotate through sites) - break at bus
Noon – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch (Daybreak—Park)
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Riverbend Restoration Project, 13000 S. Jordan River (approx. 4 block walk)
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Jordan Valley Conservation Dist., Water Conservation Gardens (break at bus)
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Constructed Wetland Ponds, 7800 S. Jordan River
5:00 p.m.	Arrive back at Hotel

Registration Form

(Please print)

Name

Title

Organization

Companion's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

FAX

E-mail

Special physical or dietary needs

Make checks payable to:  
Utah Association of Conservation  
Districts (UACD)

Mail registration form to:  
Virginia Sligting,  
NPS Water Quality Conference  
% Utah Department of Agriculture & Food  
P. O. Box 146500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500  
(801)538-7175 vksligting@utah.gov

Attending :

UTAH NONPOINT SOURCE WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE – September 27-29, 2005

NPS Conference & Tour	\$125.00	No. _____	@ \$125.00 _____
Barbecue & Awards	\$ 18.00	No. _____	@ \$ 18.00 _____
Tour only (Spouse or Guest)	\$ 20.00	No. _____	@ \$ 20.00 _____
Late Fees for registrations postmarked after September 20, 2005			@ \$ 10.00 _____
Total			\$ _____



# Water Educators “Bug” WOW Campers

For the fifth straight season, since the program began in 2001, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) water quality educators have participated in the Wonderful Outdoor World urban camping program.

This year about 200 youth from South Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, and Murray participated in the overnight camping experiences in their own neighborhood.

UDAF participated in four of the five camps this year, conducted water monitoring demonstrations that include water chemistry tests and collecting macroinvertebrate insects from the nearby streams.

Chesitry tests included phosphorus, pH, and dissolved oxygen.

Campers learned about the insects that live at the bottom of streams and rivers by looking at and identifying live insects.. They learned that certain species are “indicator species” because they are either very pollution sensitive or very pollution tolerant.



## Balancing Resource Management



Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation personnel recently removed six-foot tall willows that lined the bank of the Jordan River near 300 North in Salt Lake City. The bushes were partially blocking the spray of their sprinklers. Yet the willows reduce stream bank erosion and pollution transport from runoff, produced in the summer mostly by irrigation. Sometimes management priorities are in direct conflict.

### “EPA” continued from Page 1

at present. The high flow this season was about 1200 cfs.

This project has cost about \$20,000 for ½ mile of streambank work.

In a section of Thistle Creek, the channel has been restored to meanders from the former eroded channel that had vertical banks up to 12 ft. high and no vegetation. Now, the gently sloping banks are vegetated providing excellent habitat, and the stream has five times the number of fish it had before the restoration. The project has accomplished many desired objectives already, though the funding is not yet completely spent.

The group toured several other sites along Thistle Creek before travelling to the San Pitch drainage.

In the next issue of *Utah Watershed Reivew*, part II of the EPA tour report will look at work in the San Pitch, salinity projects in Carbon and Emery counties, and riparian work at Hardware Ranch in Cache County.

## Longtime Adopt-A-Waterbody Group Continues Efforts Despite Obstacles

A local non-profit group dedicated to improving the community and giving youth positive alternatives to substance abuse and violence continued this summer its longtime stewardship of a natural area along the Jordan River, despite ongoing vandalism.

About 20 youth and adult volunteers spent frou days at the site, approximately 1600 S. 1200 W. in Salt Lake City, as part of the Utah Federation for Youth’s 10-day Peace Trees leadership and community-building camp.

Youth painted over grafitti on the foot bridge, several benches and signs marking the significance of the area.

Participants also spread wood chips along pathways and removed fallen tree branches.

Participants also removed thistle and other noxious weeds, and planted native plants in the riparian area.

The Utah Federation for Youth has been working on this site since 1998 through the summer Peace Trees program and in periodic youth activities throughout the year.



Three Peace Trees participants pick up trash along the Jordan River as part of a multi-day community service effort.